



Americans to begin saying their goodbyes to George H.W. Bush

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and IVAN MORENO
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans will begin saying goodbye to former President George H.W. Bush on Monday when his body arrives in Washington for public viewing in the Capitol Rotunda — a rare honor that will be bestowed on a man who earned the respect and admiration of many with his leadership,

bravery and grace. The public viewing will kick off four days of events that will include a state funeral at Washington's National Cathedral on Wednesday and a private service at Bush's longtime church in Houston on Thursday. tributes from leaders around the world have been pouring in since his death Friday night.

Continued on Page 3



Tiffany Utterson, right, and her children, from left to right, Ella, 11, Ian, 10 and Owen, 8, place a wreath outside the gated community entrance to the home of George H.W. Bush Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Houston.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to the media after the G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018.
Associated Press

Mattis: Putin tried to 'muck around' in U.S. midterm elections

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Saturday took aim at Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing him of trying to "muck around" in the U.S. midterm elections, of duplicity in arms control and of acting irresponsibly in last weekend's naval

confrontation with Ukraine. In remarks at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, California, Mattis said the U.S.-Russian relationship has deteriorated over the last two years. "We are dealing with someone that we simply cannot trust," he said. "There is no doubt the relationship has worsened."

Mattis did not elaborate on his claim that Russia tried to interfere in last month's elections, adding only, "We are seeing a continued effort along those lines." He added more generally, "It's his efforts to try to subvert democratic processes that must be defended." Citing Russia's seizure of Ukrainian vessels and sailors, President Donald Trump canceled his plans to meet with Putin at this weekend's Group of 20 summit in Argentina, but he said he looked forward to meeting Putin soon. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called the canceled Trump-Putin meeting a missed opportunity, saying it didn't "help settling a number of important international problems." The naval incident further escalated a tug-of-war that began in 2014 when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and supported separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. It also has prompted global concern and renewed Western criticism of Russia. Mattis portrayed the latest incident as evidence that the administration's defense strategy, announced nearly a year ago, was correct in refocusing from the post-9/11 wars to what Mattis has called an emergence of "great power" competition with Russia

and China.

Mattis, in a speech at the Reagan Presidential Library and during a question-and-answer session afterward, was unyielding in his criticism of Putin. Asked how the U.S. can deter further Russian confrontation, the former Marine general placed the blame for worsening relations all on the Russian president.

"This is a very complex situation because Mr. Putin is clearly a slow learner," Mattis said. "He is not recognizing that what he is doing is actually creating the animosity against his people. He's not acting in the best interests of the Russian people, and he is actually causing NATO to rearm" — an allusion to increased defense spending by many European NATO members, as well as the conduct of bigger allied military exercises and billions of dollars in additional U.S. spending on military training and operations in Europe.

"We are dealing with Putin's duplicitous violation of the INF Treaty," Mattis said. He was referring to the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces accord between Washington and Moscow that the White House has indicated it intends to withdraw from soon.

The Trump administration asserts that Russia has been violating the treaty by producing and deploying land-based missiles the accord had banned. Moscow denies any violation.

Mattis did not mention directly the administration's intention to withdraw from the treaty, saying instead, "We will re-energize our arms control efforts, but the onus is on Russia." □



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GEORGE H.W. BUSH**Continued from Front**

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell called him "a perfect American" for how "he served the country in so many capacities."

"He never forgot who he was," Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Bush's presidency, told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "He never let it all go to his head. He was a man of great humility."

Bush, who died at his Houston home at age 94, will be buried Thursday on the grounds of his presidential library at Texas A&M University. In Washington, D.C., he will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda from 7:30 p.m. Monday to 8:45 a.m. Wednesday. President Donald Trump, who ordered federal offices closed for a national day of mourning on Wednesday, is to attend with first lady Melania Trump and other high-ranking officials.

James Baker, Bush's former chief of staff and secretary of state, called his boss's tenure in office "a consequential presidency" because of his foreign policy achievements.

"Yes, he's a one-term president ... but he is going to be and was a very consequential one-term president. And I would argue far and away the best one-term president we've ever had," Baker told ABC's "This Week."

Bush's crowning achievement as president was assembling the international military coalition that liberated the tiny, oil-rich nation of Kuwait from invading Iraq in 1991 in a war that lasted just 100 hours. He also presided over the end

of the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

At the Group of 20 summit in Argentina, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was raised in East Germany, told reporters she likely would never have become her country's leader had Bush not pressed for the nation's reunification in 1990. A humble hero of World War II, Bush was just 20 when he survived being shot down during a bombing run over Japan. He enlisted in the Navy on his 18th birthday. Shortly before leaving the service, he married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Barbara Pierce, in a union that lasted until her death earlier this year.

"He knew what combat was all about," Powell said on "This Week." "He knew that combat meant the death of people, people on your side and people on the other side. And so he wanted to avoid a war." Bush turned his attention to politics in the 1960s, being elected to his first of two terms in Congress in 1967. He would go on to serve as ambassador to the United Nations and China, head of the CIA and chairman of the Republican National Committee before being elected to two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president. Soon after he reached the zenith of his political popularity following the liberation of Kuwait, the U.S. economy began to sour and voters began to believe that Bush, never a great orator, was out of touch with ordinary people. He lost his bid for re-election to then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, who would later become a close friend. □



In this Oct. 21, 2017, file photo, former Presidents from right, Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter gather on stage at the opening of a hurricanes relief concert in College Station, Texas.

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California Democrats thank Trump for legislative majorities

By **DON THOMPSON**
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California lawmakers begin their new legislative session Monday with crushing Democratic supermajorities in both chambers to go with their sweep of all statewide offices.

Democrats benefited from changing demographics and attitudes toward President Donald Trump to overachieve in last month's election by historic margins, even in areas long supportive of Republicans, like Orange County and the Central Valley.

They'll have 29 of the 40 state Senate seats, two more than the two-thirds supermajority they need to raise taxes, suspend legislative rules and override

veto without Republican votes. And they will hold a three-quarters majority in the Assembly — 60 of the 80 seats.

"It is entirely unprecedented in the modern era," said Alex Vassar, the California State Library's legislative historian.

Democratic gains accentuate what already was a marked geographic split: They control virtually the entire coast and major inland cities, while Republicans are relegated mostly to the rural mountains, forests and deserts of eastern California.

That could be bad news for the roughly 10 million people Republicans represent — about a quarter of the population — though a huge swath of the agri-



In this Aug. 31, 2018 file photo, the lights of the Capitol dome shine as lawmakers work into the night on the last day of the 2017-2018 Legislative session, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

cultural Central Valley that was represented by the minority party could now benefit from being represented in the Democratic majority. But Senate Republican Leader Patricia Bates of

Laguna Niguel said she expects to work cooperatively on issues that often transcend political boundaries, like responding to recent wildfires by assisting devastated communities and improving forest management.

It's the Democrats' widest margin in the Assembly since 1883; the record for Democratic Assembly seats was 68 in 1854, while Republicans held 71 Assembly seats in 1937, Vassar said. Democrats last had this many Senate seats when John F. Kennedy was president in 1962. Republicans last reached that milestone when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, in 1953.

To get there, Democrats ousted the sole remaining Republican in the San Francisco Bay Area, claimed three traditionally Republican Senate seats in Orange County and the Central Valley, and turned Assembly seats in more conservative areas of Southern California. For the first time in 40 years, Democrats will represent the Santa Clarita Valley north of Los Angeles; coastal north San Diego County; and coastal central Orange County.

"We've simply become a

one-party state," said Tony Quinn, editor of the non-partisan California Target Book that tracks legislative races.

Part is because of the state's changing voting demographics to a younger, more independent, diverse population. Yet University of California, San Diego political scientist Thad Kousser said Trump helped Republicans alienate socially moderate, fiscally conservative, environmentally conscious suburban voters.

"Donald Trump's voice is so loud that Republicans in California can't distinguish themselves from it," he said. Each party will temporarily lose a Senate seat when statewide officials take office in January because Democrat Ricardo Lara was elected insurance commissioner and Republican Ted Gaines was elected to the Board of Equalization. Their successors picked in special elections are likely to be from the same party.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of Lakewood and Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins of San Diego have met with Democratic governor-elect Gavin Newsom several times and found they share an interest in affordable housing and easing homelessness, early childhood education and improving health care. But while Newsom and Atkins support a single-payer system, Rendon blocked an earlier Senate version.

He and Atkins said the focus may be on providing universal coverage, not necessarily a government-run program.

Rendon also hopes Newsom will be more sympathetic to several sexual harassment and gun violence bills that were vetoed by termed-out Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown. □

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Michigan to be first Midwest state to allow recreational pot

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan clears a threshold this week as the first state in the Midwest to allow marijuana for more than just medical purposes. In the Nov. 6 election, voters by a wide margin endorsed recreational use by adults who are at least 21. The move comes 10 years after voters approved marijuana to alleviate the effects of certain illnesses. Many supporters believe that decadelong experience, as well as similar legalization efforts in other states, led to victory at the ballot box.

"It's certainly going to smell like freedom," starting Thursday, said Detroit lawyer Matt Abel, who specializes in marijuana law and whose office sign says, "cannabis counsel."

Eleven states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana. Of course, there are many caveats in Michigan and already some tension.

HOW MUCH?

Michigan residents who are 21 or older can possess or transport up to 2.5 ounces (70.8 grams) of marijuana. They can grow up to 12 plants, although not in public view. They also can give 2.5 ounces (70.8 grams) to another person, but not for payment.

BUZZ ZONES

Marijuana can be consumed only at homes or other private property, although landlords and employers can prohibit it. It can't be smoked at bars or restaurants or any other place that is accessible to the public. That means getting high while walking the dog or hustling between college classes could lead to trouble.

Michigan colleges and universities have repeatedly stated that campus anti-drug policies won't change. Employers will still be able to fire people for drug use.

POT SHOPS

The doors are not open yet.



In this April 12, 2018 file photo, nuggets of marijuana await packaging at the Hollingsworth Cannabis Company near Shelton, Wash.

Associated Press

The new law creates a system of growing and selling marijuana, with millions of dollars to be collected in taxes, but those shops still are months away and must involve state regulators. So people who want marijuana now will need to grow it or obtain it by other, perhaps illegal, means. Michigan is just beginning to license medical-marijuana dispensaries. Abel hopes Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer considers allowing them to sell marijuana for recreational use to meet demand. "The sooner they license retail stores, the sooner the state will be collecting revenue," he says.

LOCAL RESISTANCE

Depending on where people live, buying marijuana won't be as easy as buying bread. Elected officials in some communities already have voted to ban pot businesses, long before rules are in place. A local veto is available under the law.

Local governments also can revisit their policy later. Communities that block marijuana businesses lose an opportunity to capture a portion of a 10 percent tax. But St. Joseph Mayor Mike Garey predicts: "It's not going to be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow." St. Joseph is out for now. □

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'El Chapo' trial gives inside look at his rise to power

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. trial of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman has offered a screenplay-worthy picture of the lawlessness and excesses during his rise to power as Mexico's most infamous drug lord.

Since the trial got underway on Nov. 13, witnesses have described how Guzman used tunnels dug under the border and fake jalapeno cans to smuggle tons of cocaine into the United States during the 1990s and early 2000s.

The Sinaloa cartel, sometimes referred to by insiders as "The Federation," made hundreds of millions of dollars, most of it in U.S. currency collected in such volume it had to be stashed in safe houses while the gang figured out what to do with it. Guzman spent some of it on a private zoo, a diamond-encrusted pistol and paying off police and politicians.

That's all according to a cast of characters who have taken the witness



This combination of undated photos provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York shows former Colombian drug lord Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia.

Associated Press

stand ranging from former cartel members to a Colombian drug kingpin with a freakish face that he chose to alter with plastic surgery in a failed attempt to stay under the radar.

Here's a look at some testimony highlights from the trial, which is expected to last until early next year:

SMUGGLING BY THE TON

The Sinaloa cartel had many crafty ways to smuggle drugs across the border, but perhaps none were craftier than La Comadre brand pepper cans.

Former cartel member Miguel Angel Martinez testified in federal court in Brooklyn he helped supervise a warehouse in Mexico City where workers hid cocaine in the cans so it could be trucked over the border.

The trucks carried 3,000 cans at a time to Los Angeles, he said. He estimated about 25 to 30 tons of cocaine worth \$400 to \$500 million got across the border each year.

Behind the scenes, the workers packing the coke into the cans "got intoxicated because whenever you would press the kilos, it would release cocaine into the air."

Proceeds ended up in Tijuana, where Guzman would send his three private jets every month to pick it up, Martinez said. On average, each plane would carry up to \$10 million home.

The cash, he said, helped pay for luxuries like an Acapulco beach house featuring a private zoo and a trip to Switzerland for Guzman to get an exotic "anti-aging" treatment.

when he and Guzman visited a drug boss behind bars, other inmates had put together a lavish meal.

"There was a music group and they had everything, whatever you would want to eat. Whiskey, cognac," Martinez said. "You could choose between lobster and sirloin and pheasant."

THE MASK

The latest star witness for the government has been more notable for his appearance than his testimony.

Former Colombian drug lord Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia is perhaps best known for his plastic surgery. He told the jury last week that he has had at least three surgeries to change his appearance.

The work altered "my jawbone, my cheekbones, my eyes, my mouth, my ears, my nose," he said.

His testimony made a case for ranking him at the top of the narco-patheon with Guzman: He said he smuggled 400,000 kilos (881,840 pounds), ordered 150 killings and amassed a fortune so large that he forfeited \$1 billion after his arrest in Brazil in 2007. Ramirez Abadia said he had a cartel business model that included a division entirely devoted to using drug money to bribe authorities to "not do their jobs" to enforce drug laws. He testified that it was clear Guzman had similar arrangements when he flew planes loaded with Colombian cocaine to Mexico, where they were greeted by police officers who helped unload the goods. Ramirez Abadia resumes testifying on Monday. □

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Rare December tornadoes reported in central U.S., killing 1

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

Residents in central Illinois on Sunday assessed the damage after rare December tornadoes, including one the day before that was a half-mile-wide, ripped roofs off homes in Taylorville, downed power lines and injured at least 20 people.

The severe weather in Illinois was part of a line of thunderstorms that raked areas of the central U.S. late Friday and into Saturday, killing one person in Missouri. The National Weather Service confirmed tornadoes in Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma.

At least three tornadoes were confirmed in northwest and southwest Arkansas, which largely caused property and structural damage. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

Peak months for tornadoes in much of the Midwest are April and June, according to the weather service. But at least 12 tornadoes were reported in Illinois on Saturday, including the Taylorville tornado, which has been confirmed. If the majority are confirmed, that would be the most tornadoes in Illinois in a December storm since Dec. 18-19, 1957, when there were 21.

The weather service sent crews Sunday to survey the hardest-hit areas in Illinois, which included Taylorville, 25 miles (40 kilometers) southeast of Springfield.

Photographs and video from Taylorville showed several houses flattened, with residents wading into debris to salvage what they could.

Some homes remained standing but with gaping holes in the roofs or with no

roofs at all.

The tornado was on the ground for around 10 miles (16 kilometers) before it thundered through Taylorville, and the weather service was able to warn residents of its arrival 41 minutes before it actually struck, Chris Miller, a meteorologist at the service's Lincoln office, said in a phone interview Sunday. That advanced warning gave people critical time to take cover and may have saved lives.

Assistant Fire Chief Andy Goodall, speaking to reporters Saturday night shortly after the storm pounded the city of 11,000, said at least 100 homes had major damage, including his own, Springfield's State Journal-Register reported. A Taylorville Memorial Hospital spokesman said 21 people, from age 9 to 97, arrived for treatment Saturday. Most were released within hours. Miller said three people remained hospitalized as of Sunday afternoon.

Miller said preliminary estimates are that the Taylorville tornado may have been an EF2, which indicates wind speeds as high as 135 mph. It could take several more days to know for sure.

The weather service said Sunday that a strong tornado that developed from severe thunderstorms Friday night touched down in Van Buren, Arkansas. It was rated an EF2. About 10 minutes later, a second weaker tornado was confirmed less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) away near the town of Rudy, Arkansas.

Damage surveys for the two tornadoes are ongoing but officials said dozens of

homes were damaged.

Early Saturday morning a third tornado with estimated peak winds of 107 mph traveled about 8.5 miles (13.5 kilometers) through Spring Hill in southwest Arkansas.

Its path was intermittent and mostly caused damage to trees and to some structures. □



Joyce Morrissey sorts through the debris of her nephew Stephen Tirpak's house in Taylorville, Ill., Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

Associated Press



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Paris assesses injuries, damage after worst riot in decade

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron asked for an evaluation of possible protest security measures Sunday, a day after a Paris demonstration against increased taxes and living costs devolved into France's worst urban riot in a decade.

Hours after he flew back to the French capital from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron held an emergency meeting at the Elysee presidential palace while crews worked to remove charred cars, broken glass and graffiti from the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue and other top Paris sites.

Paris police said 133 people were injured, including 23 police officers, as crowds trashed the streets of the capital Saturday. Officers fired tear gas and used water cannon to tamp down the violence as protesters torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores and tagged the Arc de Triomphe with spray paint.

Paris police Prefect Michel Delpuech said some offi-



A hooded demonstrator throws an item as a car buns during a demonstration Saturday, Dec.1, 2018 in Paris.

Associated Press

cers described encountering "unprecedented" violence, including protesters using hammers, gardening

tools, bolts, aerosol cans as well as rocks in physical confrontations.

Some radical far-right and

far-left activists were involved in the riot, as well as a "great number" of protesters wearing yellow jackets, Delpuech said. The fluorescent jackets, which French motorists are required to have in their cars for emergencies, are an emblem of a grassroots citizens' movement protesting fuel taxes. Fires were started at six buildings and more than 130 makeshift barricades and 112 vehicles were torched, Delpuech said. Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said 378 people remained in police custody as of Sunday evening, 33 of them minors.

Earlier Sunday, Macron visited the Arc de Triomphe, which had damaged statues as well as graffiti. One slogan on the famed war memorial read: "Yellow jackets will triumph." He then headed to a nearby avenue where activists battled police on Saturday to meet with firefighters, police officers and restaurant owners.

At the security meeting, the French leader asked his interior minister to consider making "adaptations" to security procedures to

try to contain ongoing protests sparked by rising fuel taxes, Macron's office said in a statement.

Macron also asked Prime Minister Edouard Philippe to meet with the heads of France's major political parties and representatives from the grassroots movement behind the protests. Plans for an earlier meeting between the prime minister and representatives of the movement collapsed last week after a request to broadcast the talks live was rejected.

It was the third straight weekend of clashes in Paris involving activists dressed in the yellow vests of the new protest movement. The grassroots protests began Nov. 17 with motorists upset over a fuel tax hike, but have grown to encompass a range of demands and complaints that Macron's government does not care about the problems of ordinary people.

The scene in Paris contrasted sharply with protests elsewhere in France that were mostly peaceful.

"It's difficult to reach the end of the month. People work and pay a lot of taxes and we are fed up," said Rabah Mendez, a protester who marched peacefully Saturday in Paris.

Speaking in Buenos Aires before he flew home to Paris, Macron said he welcomed the views of protesters but vowed that those who participated in wreaking havoc would be held responsible for their behavior.

"(Violence) has nothing to do with the peaceful expression of a legitimate anger" and "no cause justifies" attacks on police or pillaging stores and burning buildings, Macron said. □



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Damaging police report looms over Netanyahu re-election bid

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police on Sunday recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery charges, adding to a growing collection of legal troubles that have clouded the longtime leader's prospects for pursuing re-election next year.

Netanyahu denied the latest allegations. But his fate now lies in the hands of his attorney general, who will decide in the coming months whether the prime minister should stand trial on a host of corruption allegations that could play a central role in next year's election campaign.

In a scathing attack on police investigators in a speech on Sunday, Netanyahu called the investigation a "witch hunt" that was "tainted from the start."

"Israel is a law-abiding country. And in a law-abiding country police recommendations have no legal weight," he told his Likud party at a Hannukah candle-lighting ceremony. Most of his half-hour holiday speech went to dismissing the allegations, and the boisterous crowd of hundreds of party members rallied behind him.

Sunday's decision followed a lengthy investigation into a case involving Netanyahu's relationship with Shaul Elovitch, the controlling shareholder of Israel's telecom giant Bezeq.

Police said they found sufficient evidence that confidants of Netanyahu promoted regulatory changes worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Bezeq. In ex-



In this Nov. 11, 2018, file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara attend ceremonies at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

change, they believe Netanyahu used his connections with Elovitch to receive positive press coverage on Bezeq's popular news site Walla.

In a statement, police said the investigation concluded that Netanyahu and Elovitch engaged in a "bribe-based relationship." Police said they believed there was sufficient evidence to charge Netanyahu and his wife Sara with accepting bribes, fraud and breach of trust. They also recommended charges be brought against Elovitch, members of his family and members of his Bezeq management team.

Police have already recommended indicting Netanyahu on corruption

charges in two other cases. One involves accepting gifts from billionaire friends, and the second revolves around alleged offers of advantageous legislation for a major newspaper in return for favorable coverage.

The prime minister has denied any wrongdoing.

"The police recommendations regarding me and my wife don't surprise anyone," Netanyahu said in a statement. "These recommendations were decided upon and leaked even before the investigation began."

The police recommendations do not have any immediate impact on Netanyahu. They go to his hand-picked attorney general,

Avichai Mandelblit, who will review the material and make the final decision on whether to press charges. That decision will have a great impact on Netanyahu's future. Israeli law is unclear about whether an indicted prime minister would have to step down. But at the minimum, a trial would put great pressure on Netanyahu, who has been in office for nearly a decade, to step aside.

Israel must hold its next election by November 2019. But Israeli governments rarely last their full terms.

Netanyahu last month was nearly forced to call elections after a key partner withdrew from his coalition to protest a cease-fire with the Hamas militant group

in Gaza. Netanyahu now leads a coalition with a razor-thin 61 seat majority in the 120-seat parliament.

With his Likud Party firmly behind him and his remaining coalition partners remaining silent, there does not seem to be any immediate threat to the government.

Mandelblit's office has not said when he will issue his decision. Most analysts expect him to take several months to review the material.

Reuven Hazan, a political scientist at Hebrew University, said Netanyahu will likely try to push forward elections before Mandelblit decides whether to indict. Netanyahu holds a solid lead in all opinion polls, and a victory would make it more difficult for Mandelblit to indict and potentially force out a newly re-elected leader.

"He'll send a message to the attorney general that everyone knew about these three police reports and they still voted for him and want him in power," Hazan said. That would force the attorney general "to seriously reconsider his decision," he said.

The Bezeq case, known as Case 4000, is the most serious of which Netanyahu has been accused. Two of his top confidants have turned state witnesses and are believed to have provided police with incriminating evidence.

Netanyahu held the government's communications portfolio until last year and oversaw regulation in the field. □

Associated Press



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Coal question looms large as climate talks begin in Poland



A demonstrator holds a placard which reads 'climate first, politics second' during a 'Claim the Climate' march in Brussels, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

By FRANK JORDANS

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Negotiators from around the world opened the United Nations' annual climate change conference Sunday in a Polish city built around mining coal, widely seen as a main culprit behind global warming.

Arriving for two weeks of talks on tackling climate change, conference participants cast off hats, scarves and heavy coats as they entered cavernous halls in Katowice heated by coal-fired power plants nearby.

Coal is center-stage at the U.N. summit, which is taking place three years after a landmark deal in Paris set a goal of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

While the Polish government claims Katowice is in the process of transforming into a green city, power plant chimneys pumped plumes of smoke into a dull December sky and monitoring sites showed elevated levels of air pollution.

Poland, which is presiding over the meeting, plans to use Monday's official opening event to promote a declaration calling for a "just transition" for fossil fuel industries that face cuts and closures amid efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental activists have expressed concerns about the non-binding declaration, arguing that it could be cited as justification for propping up dying industries instead of investing in renewable en-

ergy sources. Some also have questioned why coal companies are among the meeting's sponsors.

Poland's deputy environment minister, Michal Kurtyka, who is chairing the conference, urged envoys from almost 200 nations to use the time between Sunday and Dec. 14 to make progress on fleshing out the 2015 Paris agreement.

"We are here to enable the world to act together on climate change," he said. With further meetings next year meant to build on what's decided in Katowice, Kurtyka urged all countries to "show creativity and flexibility."

"The United Nations secretary-general is counting on us, all of us to deliver," he added. "There is no Plan B." The meeting, known as COP24, received a boost over the weekend when 19 major economies at the G-20 summit affirmed their commitment to the Paris accord. The only hold-out was the United States, which announced under President Donald Trump that it is withdrawing from the climate pact.

"Despite geopolitical instability, the climate consensus is proving highly resilient," said Christiana Figueres, a former head of the U.N. climate office.

"It is sad that the federal administration of the United States, a country that is increasingly feeling the full force of climate impacts, continues to refuse to listen to the objective voice of science when it comes to climate change," Figueres said. She cited a recent ex-

pert report warning of the consequences of letting average global temperatures rise beyond 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F).

"The rest of the G-20 have not only understood the science, they are taking actions to both prevent the major impacts and strengthen their economies," said Figueres, who now works with Mission 2020, a group that campaigns to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While the United States is withdrawing from the climate pact, the State Department said it is sending a delegation to the Katowice conference.

The meeting in Katowice is regarded as a key test of countries' willingness to back their lofty but distant goals with concrete measures, some of which are already drawing fierce protests. At the top of the agenda is the so-called Paris rulebook, which will determine how governments record and report their greenhouse emissions and efforts to cut them.

Separately, negotiators will discuss ramping up countries' national emissions targets after 2020, and financial support for poor nations that are struggling to adapt to climate change. The shift away from fossil fuels, which scientists say has to happen by 2050, is expected to require a major overhaul of world economies. "The good news is that we do know a lot of what we need to be able to do to get there," said David Waskow of the World Resources Institute. □

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South Korea says North Korean soldier defects to South

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean soldier fled across a heavily fortified border to defect to South Korea early Saturday, the military in Seoul said, just as the rivals began taking steps to reduce military tensions.

South Korean soldiers escorted the defector to safety after finding him moving south of the eastern side of the military demarcation line that bisects the Koreas, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

South Korean authorities plan to question the defector over the details of his escape. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had not observed any unusual activity from North Korean troops in the area where the defection happened. It comes as the North and South Korea have pushed to imple-

ment a wide-ranging military agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across their border. The North's official media hasn't reported about Saturday's case. Pyongyang has frequently accused Seoul of kidnapping or enticing its citizens to defect.

About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly traveling via China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Last November, a North Korean soldier was critically wounded in a jointly controlled area after he fled to the South amid a hail of bullets fired by his former comrades. The soldier, Oh Chong Song, survived and told a Japanese newspaper last month that he had been drinking after getting into unspecified trouble with his friends. He said he kept going after breaking through a checkpoint in a military jeep because he

became fearful of being executed. South Korea says the military agreement, which also included creating buffer zones along the Koreas' land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, is an important trust-building step that would help stabilize peace and advance reconcilia-



In this Nov. 15, 2018, file photo, smoke from an explosion rises as part of the dismantling of a South Korean guard post in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in Cheorwon, as a North Korean guard post sits high in the upper left.

Associated Press

tion between the rivals. But critics say the South risks conceding some of its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any meaningful steps on denuclearization, as the larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang seemingly drift into a stalemate.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Friday that the Korean militaries completed removing 20 front-line guard posts and land mines from a border area where they plan to start their first-ever joint search for remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. The Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command recently finished removing firearms and troops from the jointly controlled area at the border village of Panmunjom, and eventually plan to allow tourists to freely move around there. □



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A look at what happened at the G-20 summit in Argentina

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Leaders of the world's largest economic powers have agreed to overhaul the global body that regulates trade disputes, but they faced resistance from President Donald Trump over the Paris accord on climate change. Here are some of the main developments at the Group of 20 summit, which wrapped up Saturday:

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

All G-20 leaders called for reforming the World Trade Organization and the issue will be discussed during the group's next summit in Osaka, Japan, in June. The gathering's final statement, however, did not mention protectionism after negotiators said the U.S. objected to the wording. Trump has criticized the WTO and taken aggressive trade policies targeting China and the European Union.

U.S.-CHINA TRADE WAR

Financial markets will be cheered by the U.S. announcement that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed at a dinner after the summit to have a 90-day truce in their trade battle. Trump agreed to hold off on plans to raise tariffs Jan. 1 on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. Xi agreed to buy a "not yet agreed upon, but very substantial amount of agricultural, energy, industrial" and other products from the United States to reduce America's huge trade deficit with China, the White House said. The cease-fire will buy time for the two countries to work out their differences in a dispute over Beijing's aggressive drive to supplant



In this photo released by the press office of the G20 Summit, leaders and their partners pose for a group photo prior to a gala dinner at the Colon Theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

U.S. technological dominance.

PRINCE UNDER PRESSURE

There were some awkward moments for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as some leaders called him out over the gruesome October killing of dissident Saudi newspaper columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the country's consulate in Istanbul.

French President Emmanuel Macron was captured on video seemingly lecturing bin Salman, at one point being heard saying "I am worried," "you never listen to me," and "I am a man of my word." Macron said the crown prince only "took note" of his concerns. British Prime Minister Theresa May also said she pressed bin Salman.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the only G-20 leader to raise the issue during the official session. Erdogan called bin Salman's response — that the crime

had not been proven — "unbelievable" and complained that Saudi authorities have been uncooperative.

But it wasn't all bad for bin Salman. He was not shunned, and on the gathering's first day, he and Russian President Vladimir Putin engaged in a hearty grip-and-grin as the two seemingly reveled in their shared status as relative outcasts.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded the Saudi prince was behind the killing. Saudi Arabia denies he played a role.

UKRAINE CONFLICT

Western leaders confronted Putin over Russia's recent seizure of Ukrainian naval vessels and crews, but the diplomatic pressure didn't seem to bring either side closer to solving the conflict. Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of being responsible for the standoff.

Trump cited Russia's actions as the reason that he canceled a planned

meeting with Putin on the sidelines of the summit. EU Council President Donald Tusk sharply criticized "Russia's aggression" against Ukraine.

Putin tried to convince Trump and the leaders of France and Germany that Russia's actions were justified — even pulling out a piece of paper and drawing a map of the disputed area to make his point.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The final communique signed by all 20 member nations said 19 of them reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris climate accord. The only holdout was the U.S., which has withdrawn from the pact under Trump. Still, environmental groups praised the statement as welcome news.

"That G20 leaders signed up to the Paris Agreement reaffirmed their commitment to its full implementation in the resulting communique is important," the World Wildlife Fund said. "It is also a reflection of the Argen-

tinian government rightly making climate an important topic on the agenda." Greenpeace said that "the necessity of the U.S. being part of the effort to fight climate change cannot be denied, but this is a demonstration that the U.S. is still the odd one out."

NAFTA

After two years of negotiations, Trump signed a revised North American trade pact with the leaders of Canada and Mexico on the sidelines of the summit. The deal is meant to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Trump long denigrated as a "disaster."

The new pact won't take effect unless approved by the legislatures of all three nations, and there are questions about the pact's prospects in the U.S. Congress, especially now that Democrats will control the House. Democrats and their allies in the labor movement are already demanding changes.

But Trump said on the way back to Washington that he plans to formally terminate NAFTA, so Congress will have to choose between accepting the new pact or going without a trade accord.

LOW EXPECTATIONS, LOW OUTPUT

Even the host country had lowered expectations ahead of the summit, saying before the gathering started that it might not be possible to reach a consensus for a final statement.

After sleepless days of round-the-clock talks by diplomats, a communique was produced, but analysts said leaders merely signed a watered down statement that skirted trade and other contentious issues. □

LOCAL



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ORANJESTAD –Foundation Trampolin pa Trabou, translated Trampoline to Work, makes the difference between 'hidden and seen'. "This is all about acknowledge by society that persons with a limitation count. Our clients can do a lot, you just need to open up. To them it is so much more than a job. Here we give them self-esteem, skills, happiness and a pay check. Emotionally and financially we - and hopefully you - empower. Who does not want to be part of that?" says Manager Lionel Rumnit, the motor behind the foundation, driving force by skills and heart. Rumnit also is a certified Job Coach, teaching is in his veins.

Trampolin pa Trabou is part of Foundation Sonrisa and offers a day care and teaching school for adults with limitations. "Meaning preparing the clients in this building to give them the best starting qualifications as possible to begin working. We have deaf, visually impaired, Down Syndrome, Autism and other kind of limitations, but that does not mean you cannot work," Rumnit explains. He reaches out to the private sector, as well as the government to find job opportunities; two assistants take care of the daily in-house tasks and administration and three to six trainees from EPI College plus

the cook complete the team. "We have 15 to 20 clients approximately for the full day, together with the ones that have a job we are 40 to 50, of course not all at the same time." It is a built-up process whereas clients start with a couple of days and accumulate. Rumnit: "I have more requests than I can handle, therefore we could use support in many ways, and an incentive to companies for hiring our clients would also be more than desirable."

In-House Program

Attitude, work ethic, structure and discipline are all part of the program. In the morning, they stack away their bags and start an exercise program to activate their bodies and their brains, after that several tasks begin. "This can be cleaning, helping the cook in the kitchen or organizing. All tasks are timed to teach them to work efficient and be responsible. It starts playful but on the way gets serious," says Rumnits. 40 to 50 healthy meals are prepared on a daily basis for outside clients. "It gives my people work and an income." Work and income are provided as well with the production of ginger syrup, lemonade, sauces and turmeric. "After the ginger is brought in here, we scrub and wash, chop it up and grind it by machine. The cook cooks it and we also clean and fill the bottles plus stick the etiquettes on them. It gives 2-3 clients daily work, teaching, empowerment and income." The ginger is sold in all big supermarkets.

7.000 Disabled and More

The need of companies that open up to the foundations clients is significant. "A lot of hotels and companies already cooperate, it is



not always easy but very rewarding. Social responsibility is a part of society, we must never forget." The clients usually stay home alone, do not have many friends and in most cases depend on family. Rumnit points out that there is a lack of insight and motivation of the caregivers. "Due to that the family often gets frustrated because of the non-understanding of the limitation. Plus they do not know where to turn to, often not directed by a house doctor to the right organizations." In 2010 there were 7.000 people with a limitation on Aruba, where are they, he wonders. Every month there is taking place an amputation of an arm or leg in the hospital, but we do not know about these people. Most are live isolated or hidden because of the taboo and the shame of the family.

If you feel inspired by this article, do not just turn the page but act upon it. You can help and support this wonderful foundation to jump higher every time. The foundation welcomes:

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AHATA's Excellence Awards Honors the Best in Tourism



ORANJESTAD — Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA) had its annual presentation of the AHATA Excellence Awards to recognize the most impressive employees in the tourism sector. Members of AHATA employ about 10,000 people

locally, and for 2018 they nominated the best 48 for the honor of being considered for the AHATA Excellence Awards.

AHATA's CEO, Tisa LaSorte, received the nominees and their guests at the ballroom of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. Nominees sat together with their colleagues and managers to enjoy a spectacular night full of appreciation for their contributions to the success of Aruba's tourism. During the official welcome speech, Tisa LaSorte thanked the minister of tourism, Danguillaume "Dangui" Oduber, for his presence and announced that the purpose of the elegant night was to especially recognize the pillar of our tourism industry—the

human element, Aruba's people.

A jury of three independent and impartial persons in the tourism sector interviewed all the nominees in the last few weeks and selected the winners for the five categories. The board of directors of AHATA selected the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The master of ceremony, Larissa Bermudez, thanked the sponsor of the dinner and the celebratory evening, De Palm Tours, and then called each nominee on stage to receive a certificate as a video of the nominee played in the background.

Continued on Page 16

Alhambra

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Honoring of Goodwill Ambassadors

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Jonathan boekhoudt of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mr. Bartholomus & Mrs. Marcia Bertero from New York. The honorees love Aruba very much specially the beautiful weather, the variety of restaurant all over the island and the breathtaking sunsets.

Boekhoudt together with Germaine Wever representative of the Hilton Aruba presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years. □



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Shop, Play, Win and Drive!
All who shop at the Renaissance Mall will have a

chance to win spectacular prizes, including the main prize; a Lincoln MKC 2018. Among the prizes are also a Travel Voucher worth \$ 3,000, a Weekend Stay at Renaissance Aruba, a dinner for two at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House, a dinner for two at Aquarius Restaurant, a Swedish massage at Okeanos Spa, 1 Hot Look gift voucher worth \$ 125, 4x Carnival Bingo Certificates and 4x Gift Cards from the Renaissance Mall worth \$100. The Renaissance Mall has always been Aruba's favourite for the end of year shopping, and this year is no exception. Renaissance Mall houses more than 60 shops, restaurants and cafés. Shops are open from Monday to Saturday from 10AM to 7PM.



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Crystal & Seaport Casino. Make a 'selfie' in front of the car and share it on social media using the hash tag #UNWRAP. The campaign ends on December 31st, 2018 and on January 3d, 2019, the selected win-

ners will be announced. 15 gift boxes will be handed out - 1 to each selected winner- and one of those boxes contains the winning key of the Lincoln MKC! □



Continued from Page 14

The following winners were announced: Berlinda Engelhardt, Navigator at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, Employee of the Year; Shemuel Koolman, Assistant Rooms Operation Manager at Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, Supervisor of the Year; Barbara Nieuwmeyer-Bregita, Senior Sales Manager at De Palm Tours NV, Manager of the Year; Axl Jordy Ismail, Director of Casino Operations at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, Young Tourism Professional of the Year; Nathaly Stanley, Sustainability Manager at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Sustainability Champion; and Beverly Williams Perez, Banquet Manager at Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino, Lifetime Achievement Award.

AHATA awarded each winner with an original symbol-

ic sculpture by local artist Gilbert Senchi. All the nominees also received a gift.

During the night, two checks were presented, one for Colegio EPI, Hospitality & Tourism unit, and the other for the University of Aruba, Hospitality & Tourism Management. Armin Solognier, senior business developer for Caribbean Mercantile Bank, presented the donations to the schools to help support education in hospitality. At the end of the night, everyone present enjoyed the music of NBO.

AHATA's board of directors wants to thank its sponsor, De Palm Corporation, for making the AHATA Excellence Awards celebration possible. The board would also like to applaud all the nominees for their dedicated commitment to excellence. □



Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Enjoying the little moments

Working in hospitality is one of those jobs where your stress levels are always up, someone is constantly yelling and there are always deadlines to be met. Sometimes employees get so bogged down in the day to day stressors that you have a bunch of people glaring at their computer screens for eight hours a day, scrambling from one fire to the other fire.

I have pretty much felt that way since I have been back from vacation, there's always something else that needs my attention. Emails to be sent and followed up on, even when driving home, my brain seems to still be switched on to what needs to be done the next day. Despite all that though there are little moments throughout the day where we can take a break and just have a laugh.

We have to take the time and remind ourselves that we are human and work is only for a few hours a day. It's important to take a break, go for a walk, crack a smile or make someone else smile. Our job is basically to ensure the relaxation of our guests, how can we do that if we ourselves can't find a moment to appreciate the sunshine?

Around about lunch time, once everyone is done with the morning rush and ready to blow off steam, the cafeteria becomes the liveliest place for 30 minutes of your day. It's the time and place where we all sit back



and catch up and really come out of our near comatose work state and shake off the morning stress. There have been times we have had HR come in and tell us to quiet down, because we were being a bit too raucous with our stories and laughter. It usually only makes us laugh louder as we all try to shush the others.

Our back office team is a particularly rowdy bunch, always making jokes, playing (harmless) pranks or relating some news about the day. If you miss the lunch talk or the joke from that day, when you come in the next day and hear the stories it makes you wonder if you are actually working with adults. One of my colleagues is off work today, but I am sure she will get a kick out of one of our other colleagues channeling her inner Grinch and stealing the lobby Christmas tree to decorate her own office. The funniest part of the story being, guests seeing her do it and reporting that "this lady in green" took the Christmas tree.

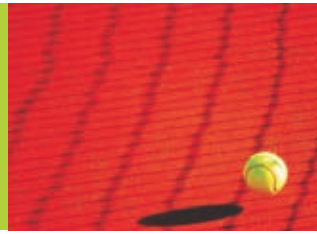
Even our decorating team couldn't be made just thinking of the imagery of this person just taking a whole already decorated tree and moving it across the lobby in broad daylight in plain view of all our cameras, she definitely needs to rewatch the Grinch movies. A small and funny moment in the day like that can change the energy of the day from stressful and heavy to light and hilarious and get us back smiling again. Those tiny moments make coming in to work every day a joy instead of a task and it shows in our level of service.

For those of you wondering, the tree was returned safely to its original location. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray hoists the Most Outstanding Player trophy after beating Texas 39-27 in the Big 12 Conference championship NCAA college football game on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Sooners are in: Oklahoma snag 4th spot in playoff semifinals

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer Faced with a tricky choice, the College Football Playoff selection committee fell back on some simple criteria: One loss is better than two. Winning a conference championship is better than not. Go with the team that didn't get blown out.

Oklahoma is in the playoff over Georgia, moving into the fourth and final spot Sunday after the Sooners avenged their only loss by winning the Big 12 championship against Texas.

"I feel like we have a team worthy of it, a team that can go make a run," Sooners coach Lincoln Riley said on ESPN. The Sooners (12-1) will face No. 1 Alabama (13-0) in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 29 in a matchup of Heisman Trophy front-runner quarterbacks — Kyler Murray of Oklahoma and the Tide's Tua Tagovailoa, who sprained his ankle in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday and is expected to miss at least two weeks.

Continued on Page 23



BEAR FOOTIN'

Giants beat Bears in OT after blowing late lead

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, top, leaps over Chicago Bears strong safety Adrian Amos during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press
Page 20

Kuzma leads Lakers' 120-96 rout of Suns for 3rd straight win

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points and LeBron James had 22 before both sat out the fourth quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' third home victory in four days, 120-96 over the struggling Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Brandon Ingram scored 15 points and JaVale McGee had 14 points and eight rebounds in three quarters of work for the Lakers. They have won 12 of 16 since their 2-5 start to James' first season on the West Coast. Michael Beasley scored a season-high 14 points as the Lakers fell behind by 17 points in the first quarter, yet still made easy work of last-place Phoenix.

Richaun Holmes scored 15 points, and Josh Jackson and Trevor Ariza scored 13 apiece for the Suns. They have lost five straight to fall to 4-19.

Devin Booker scored six points before leaving with a strained hamstring in the second quarter. Booker hurt his leg while chasing a loose ball out of bounds, going immediately to the locker room.

Booker missed three games in October after straining his hamstring in the Suns' first game against the Lakers. He was returning Sunday from a one-game absence due to an injured left toe after stubbing it on his hotel bed during the Suns' trip to Los Angeles to play the Clippers last Wednesday.

No. 1 overall pick Deandre Ayton had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns.

The Lakers didn't adapt well to the early start time, falling behind 25-8 in the opening seven minutes

with a turnover-plagued beginning.

But Kuzma and James sparked an abrupt turnaround late in the first quarter, and the Lakers made a prolonged 45-18 run to a 15-point lead late in the second.

Los Angeles poured it on in the third, taking a 23-point lead with 10 point from James.

TIP-INS

Suns: T.J. Warren missed his second straight game with ankle soreness, but coach Igor Kokoskov doesn't think it's serious. Jackson started for the second straight game in Warren's place. ... Ariza, who spent two seasons with the Lakers from 2007-09, attended Westchester High School near the Lakers' training complex before going to UCLA. He got a warm ovation from Lakers fans, many of whom would love to land his services as a 3-point shooting specialist for their team.

Lakers: Tyson Chandler had three points and 11 rebounds while facing the Suns for the first time since leaving Phoenix one month ago and signing with Los Angeles as a free agent. Chandler was an early mentor to Ayton.

MOE SCORES

Moritz Wagner scored the first 10 points of his NBA career in the fourth quarter of his fourth game for the Lakers. The first-round pick from Michigan by way of Berlin hit two free throws before getting his first field goal on a layup with 5:01 to play. He added a pair of 3-pointers a few moments later. The start of the 6-foot-11 Wagner's rookie season was slowed by a bruised knee in training camp. □



Phoenix Suns' Trevor Ariza, second from left, drives past Los Angeles Lakers' Tyson Chandler (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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Rosas' FG the winner as Giants stun Bears 30-27

TOM CANAVAN

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

-- Aldrick Rosas kicked a 44-yard field goal in overtime and the New York Giants beat NFC North-leading Chicago 30-27 Sunday, snapping the Bears' five-game winning streak. The Giants (4-8) blew a 10-point lead in the final 1:13 of regulation. They didn't nail down the win until Janoris Jenkins knocked away a deep fourth-down pass to Taylor Gabriel after quarterback Chase Daniel fumbled on consecutive plays on the rainy afternoon to set up a fourth-and-8.

Chicago (8-4) forced overtime by getting a 21-yard field goal by Cody Parkey and a 1-yard touchdown pass from halfback Tarik Cohen to Anthony Miller as time expired in the fourth quarter. The trick-play touchdown was set up by a recovered onside kick by Daniel Brown on a play Giants star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. did not dive for the loose ball. Then came a questionable pass



New York Giants kicker Aldrick Rosas (2), with Riley Dixon holding, kicks a field goal during overtime of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Giants won 30-27 in overtime.

Associated Press

interference call in the end zone against cornerback B.W. Webb with :03 to go.

"The takeaway is, and I told the team this, some people are fond of talented people, some people are fond of smart people. I'm fond of tough, resilient people," Giants coach Pat Shurmur said. "When you are trying

to flip culture and when you are trying to build something, you have to dig in on that. There was some toughness and resiliency when they came back to tie things up."

Rosas' third field goal of the game came on the opening series of overtime and was set up by a 29-yard run

by Saquon Barkley, who finished with 125 yards on 24 carries.

"I'm proud of them for fighting to the end. Not every team will do that," Bears coach Matt Nagy said. "We've got a bunch of high-character guys that will fight till the end and that's a credit to them. We've got to figure out how to learn from this. This is part of that callus that goes on."

The game was filled with wild play calls. Besides the Cohen pass on what appeared to be a sweep, the Giants saw Beckham throw and catch touchdowns, and Chicago nose tackle Akiem Hicks dive over on fourth down from 1 yard on a play made famous by William "The Fridge" Perry in the Bears glory days in the mid-1980s.

The Giants seemed to have it wrapped up when Rosas kicked a 37-yard field goal for a 27-17 lead with 1:49 to play. But the Bears rallied behind Daniel (26 of 39 for 285 yards, a TD and two interceptions) and several mistakes by the Giants, who were called for 12 penalties for 107 yards.

New York had two penalties on the tying drive, which featured a 23-yard, fourth-down pass from Daniel to Cohen to the Giants 9 with 11 seconds left in regulation.

Cohen finished with 12

catches for 156 yards.

Linebacker Alex Ogletree intercepted two passes, scoring on an 8-yard return on the second play from scrimmage. The Giants forced three turnovers and had a season-high five sacks against Daniel, who was starting his second game in place of the injured Mitchell Trubisky (shoulder).

The Giants made many big plays in the second half. Beckham threw a 49-yard TD pass to Russell Shepard and caught a 1-yard, fourth-down TD from Eli Manning (19 of 35 for 170 yards and an interception) as New York opened a 24-14 lead in the third quarter. A 36-yard field goal Parkey got the Bears within 24-17 in the third quarter.

However, Rosas, who kicked a 57-yard field goal on the final play of the first half to make it 14-10, and added a 37-yard field goal after Sean Chandler recovered Gabriel's fumble deep in Bears territory.

The Bears came right back and forced the overtime.

Nagy tried everything to get the Bears going without his starting quarterback. His fourth-down, first-quarter gamble near midfield led to a 2-yard touchdown pass by Daniel to Adam Shaheen, and Nicks brought back memories of The Fridge with his TD on his first career run.

New York now has won 3 of 4 since its bye week.

INJURIES

The Giants started the game without LB B.J. Goodson out with a neck problem. His backup, Tae Davis, left the game in the first half with an ankle injury. Ukeme Eligwe played and had his first three tackles of the season. WR Sterling Shepard had a rib injury in the first half and returned. S Landon Collins was on and off the field with a shoulder problem. He had five tackles.

RECORD

Rosas' 57-yard field goal was the longest in Giants history. The record was 56 by Ali Haji-Sheikh, who converted from that distance twice in 1983. □

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Wilder keeps heavyweight title, fights Fury to split draw

By GREG BEACHAM

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tyson Fury dominated long stretches of his heavyweight title bout against Deontay Wilder with shifty technique and graceful defense.

He still ended up flat on the canvas in the 12th round, his eyes rolling backward while Wilder celebrated above him.

Fury somehow gathered his wits, rose and made it to the final bell. That's when both hulking men heard a verdict that didn't satisfy them, but nearly guaranteed a rematch of this exciting showdown.

Wilder and Fury fought to a split draw Saturday night, with Wilder retaining his WBC heavyweight title after knocking down his British challenger twice.

"One hundred percent we'll do the rematch," Fury said. "We are two great champions. Me and this man are the two best heavyweights on the planet."

Wilder (40-0-1) floored Fury (27-0-1) in the ninth and final rounds, yet Fury clearly outboxed Wilder for large portions of their meeting at Staples Center.

Fury appeared to be on his way to a decision victory when he came out for the final round — and a minute later, he looked totally finished when Wilder put him on his back with a right-left combination. Yet Fury rose, summoning strength at the critical moment of his comeback from a 2 ½-year ring absence amid bouts of drug abuse and depression.

"I hope I did you all proud after nearly three years out of the ring," Fury said. "I was never going to be knocked out tonight. I showed good heart to get up. I came here tonight and I fought my heart out."



Tyson Fury, of England, lies on the canvas after being knocked down by Deontay Wilder during the 12th round of a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

While Wilder kept his belt, Fury remained the unofficial lineal champion of the heavyweight division by virtue of his victory over Vladimir Klitschko in November 2015.

Judge Robert Tapper scored the fight 114-112 for Fury, while Alejandro Rochin favored Wilder 115-111. Judge Phil Edwards and The Associated Press scored it a 113-113 draw, with Wilder's knockdowns compensating for Fury's superior technique.

"We gave each other all we've got," Wilder said. "We're the best in the world." The respect was mutual. While both men thought they won, neither was overly upset by the verdict in front of a frenzied Hollywood crowd. They embraced warmly and immediately talked about a rematch in the spring.

"When you get two warriors, you get a great fight," Wilder said. "That's what we proved tonight, and I'm

ready to do it again."

The bout was a rare meeting of two unbeaten heavyweight stars in their apparent primes, with both fighters putting aside caution and the typical squabbles over money or belts to stage one of the most compelling matchups in the glamour division's recent history.

And the fighters delivered, each in his unique way. The 6-foot-9 Fury spent nearly every moment of the fight nimbly avoiding Wilder's punches in a masterful display — except for the two moments when the 6-foot-7 Wilder viciously knocked him to the canvas.

A punch to the top of Fury's head shockingly put him down in the ninth, but he bounced up quickly.

With just two minutes left in the fight, Wilder buckled Fury's knees with a right hand and knocked him senseless with a perfect left on the way down.

Even though Wilder made

a throat-slashing gesture and mouthed "It's over," Fury beat the count and went back to work.

Wilder failed to win for the first time since his semi-final bout at the Beijing Olympics, and he failed to knock out his opponent for only the second time in 41 career bouts. Yet the Bronze Bomber showed remarkable resourcefulness and power, avoiding what would have been a decision loss with those two knockdowns.

"We're both warriors, but with those two drops, I think I won the fight," Wilder said. "I came out slow. I rushed my punches. I didn't sit still. I was too hesitant. I started overthrowing the right hand, and I just couldn't adjust."

Fury responded admirably to a big step up in competition after a lengthy absence and two warmup bouts, but Wilder got him in just enough trouble to earn a draw.

Staples Center had a frenzied atmosphere after the high-energy introductions, but the fighters settled into a technical bout early. Fury used his twitchy movement and near-constant feints to disrupt the rhythm of Wilder, whose trademark looping punches rarely found their mark.

Fury struggled to generate consistent offense until a strong sixth round, likely costing himself early rounds. The Englishman made Wilder miss constantly, particularly ducking under Wilder's big right hand with grace.

Fury was elusive and creative in the seventh and eighth rounds, and Wilder appeared to be out of answers. But early in the ninth, Fury went down when he absorbed a shot to the top of the head from Wilder.

The punch wasn't the biggest of the fight, but Fury was stunned — and he responded by getting up and raising his aggression in an exciting round.

Fury went right back to work in the next two rounds, and a decision appeared to be in reach. But Fury went down again — and nearly everybody thought it was for good.

The fight attracted the celebrity attention expected in Hollywood from actors and athletes alike. Everyone from Chadwick Boseman, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Shaquille O'Neal to boxing stars Gennady Golovkin and Mikey Garcia gathered for the marquee heavyweight bout.

On the undercard, Jarrett Hurd defended his WBA and IBF 154-pound belts with a fourth-round stoppage of Jason Welborn. Hurd (23-0, 16 KOs) overcame early trouble and floored the English challenger with one devastating right to the body. □

Jon Rahm wins in Bahamas, ends year with 3 titles

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) —

Jon Rahm turned a potential shootout into a Bahamas breeze Sunday, closing with a 7-under 65 for a four-shot victory in the Hero World Challenge.

Starting the final round in a three-way tie with Tony Finau and Henrik Stenson, Rahm took the lead when Finau made bogey on the par-3 eighth hole, and the 24-year-old Spaniard never trailed the rest of the day at Albany Golf Club.

Finau was the last challenger until the 14th hole, when he went from a sandy area to a bunker and over the green, leading to double bogey. Rahm made birdie on the hole, and suddenly had a five-shot lead without much trouble to get in the way.

Rahm ends his year with three victories, just like in 2017, his first full year as a pro.

And in some respects, it was a fitting end.

Even with his individual trophies, no moment for Rahm will top facing Woods in the Sunday singles at the Ryder Cup and beating him on the 17th hole, putting the first point on the board for Europe that day. And then Rahm ended his year



Spain's golfer Jon Rahm, right, poses with U.S. golfer Tiger Woods after Rahm won the Hero World Challenge at Albany Golf Club in Nassau, Bahamas, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

with Woods handing him the trophy from his holiday event.

"That Sunday with Tiger is still the most emotionally, most important moment of my golf career," Rahm said. "It means so much to play against Tiger. A couple months later, to win his event, it's really special."

Even with a runaway victory, there was a small measure of drama on the final

hole.

Justin Rose, needing to finish in a three-way tie for second to return to No. 1 in the world, closed with a 65 and was in position to go back to the top of the ranking until Finau rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt for a 69 to finish alone in second.

Brooks Koepka, who did not play this week, remains No. 1. Rose has one more event left in two weeks at

the Indonesia Masters.

Finau, meanwhile, cracked the top 10 for the first time in his career at No. 9.

The tournament host was never in the picture until it was time to hand out the trophy. Woods got off to another rough start, rallied on the back nine and had to settle for a 1-over 73 to finish 17th against the 18-man field.

He finished 19 shots behind,

the biggest gap this year from the winner over 72 holes.

"Overall, it was a long week, but one that I hope the players enjoyed," Woods said.

That starts with Rahm, who previously won the Career-Builder Challenge on the PGA Tour and the Spanish Open on the European Tour. He fell behind briefly when Finau rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-3 second, only to fall back into a share of the lead when a 4-foot par putt lipped out at No. 4.

Rahm took a two-shot lead to the back nine with a 4-hybrid to 12 feet on the par-5 ninth that set up a two-putt birdie, and he held his own until Finau's double bogey. Rahm, making his first trip to the Bahamas for this event, figured out early that the key to scoring at Albany were the five par 5s and two reachable par 4s. He made birdie on all seven of those holes Sunday.

Stenson was only one shot behind when he made the turn, but the Swede made only one birdie on the back nine and finished alone in fourth. Patrick Cantlay was 12 shots better than Saturday, closing with a 64 to tie for fifth with defending champion Rickie Fowler. □

Shiffrin takes World Cup super-G, has win in all disciplines

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (AP)

— Mikaela Shiffrin captured her first World Cup super-G race on Sunday to give her a win in all five major disciplines.

Shiffrin completed her run in a time of 1 minute, 19.41 seconds to hold off Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway by 0.77 seconds. Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany finished third.

Known for her technical skills, the two-time overall World Cup champion Shiffrin has steadily worked on her speed events over the years. She won a downhill race at Lake Louise last season.

Shiffrin of Avon, Colorado, now has 46 World Cup victories in the slalom, giant



Mikaela Shiffrin, of the United States, skis down the course during the women's World Cup super G ski race in Lake Louise, Alberta, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

slalom, downhill, super-G and the combined. She's also won in the parallel slalom, which some consider

a sixth discipline.

"It was one of my big goals to win in every discipline when I first started racing

— one of those goals that you don't think you are ever going to achieve," the 23-year-old Shiffrin said. "It's incredible."

She acknowledged she hasn't done any super-G training since September. It certainly didn't look like that was the case. The 12th racer on the course, she found the fastest line.

"This morning when I woke up I thought, 'Well, let's see what I can do!'" the two-time Olympic gold medalist said. "I just skied very aggressive. I wanted to be aggressive. I wanted to find speed. And whatever line I was going to take, I was going to use it to find speed. It felt amazing."

Right after the race, Lind-

sey Vonn congratulated her on social media. Vonn also has won in every major discipline.

Over the weekend, the downhill track at Lake Louise was renamed "Lake Lindsey Way" in honor of Vonn, who missed these races due to a knee injury. All set to retire following this season, Vonn altered her plans and will now compete at Lake Louise next season. Vonn has 18 World Cup wins at what she calls her favorite venue.

Shiffrin halted the winning streak of Austrian Nicole Schmidhofer, who won the two downhill races at Lake Louise. Schmidhofer finished in 11th place and 1.09 seconds behind Shiffrin. □

Continued from Page 18

No. 2 Clemson (13-0) plays No. 3 Notre Dame (12-0) in the Cotton Bowl on the same day. The winners meet in the championship game on Jan. 7 in Santa Clara, California.

The rest of the New Year's Six bowl matchups are UCF vs. LSU in the Fiesta Bowl; Florida vs. Michigan in the Peach Bowl; Ohio State vs. Washington in the Rose Bowl; and Texas vs. Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

Georgia (11-2) dropped a spot to fifth and Ohio State (12-1) remained sixth in the selection committee's final top 25 released Sunday. The Bulldogs lost to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday while the Buckeyes won the Big Ten championship against Northwestern.

"In the end, one-loss conference champion with their only loss being on a neutral field to a ranked team, which they avenged in their conference championship," selection committee chairman Rob Mullens said on ESPN. "Every combination was vetted, looking at their full body of work, their resumes side-by-side. In the end, what we decided was amongst the group of three, Oklahoma, Georgia, Ohio State, the committee voted that no one was unequivocally better than the other so then we leaned on

the protocol. So we went with the one-loss conference champion."

Selection committee protocol states conference championships work as a virtual tiebreaker when teams are close. The Sooners beat Texas for the Big 12 title on Saturday, paying back a three-point loss in October in Dallas in the Red River Rivalry game.

Oklahoma is making its third appearance in the five-year-old playoff. Defending national champion Alabama has played in them all. Clemson is making its fourth straight appearance. Notre Dame is in the playoff for the first time, making it 10 teams in five seasons to participate in the playoff. Unbeaten UCF finished eighth in the final rankings, nowhere to be found in the committee's playoff discussion. The Knights will put their 25-game winning streak on the line against another SEC team after beating Auburn in the Peach Bowl last season.

The debate leading up to championship Saturday was whether Oklahoma or Ohio State might take the fourth spot if Alabama beat Georgia.

The wild card was Georgia beating the mighty Tide, which could have meant two SEC teams for the second straight season. Instead, the Bulldogs lost but

played well enough to allow coach Kirby Smart to make that case that Georgia should remain in the top four. Smart told reporters after the SEC title game to ask Alabama coach Nick Saban which team he would like to avoid in the playoff? Saban, of course, endorsed his former defensive coordinator and conference-mate.

The committee didn't buy it and stayed with the one consistent data point throughout the five years of playoff selections: No team with more than one loss has ever made the playoff. Of the 20 teams that have been selected, only two have not won a conference title.

For the second straight season, two of the Power Five conferences were left out and for the second straight season it was the Big Ten and Pac-12. Ohio State was the first team out last season and again appears to have gotten squeezed because of a lopsided loss to an unranked team. The Buckeyes were blown out by Purdue in October, similar to the way they lost at Iowa in 2017.

"The CFP committee does its best and I appreciate their commitment to college football," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany told the AP in a text message. "Not frustrated at all because I know we have



Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts (2) celebrates his touchdown against Georgia during the second half of the Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

three teams capable of winning it all, but only have four playoff slots."

The Pac-12 was never in the discussion, with its champion Washington finishing 10-3. Georgia had both two losses and a blowout loss (at LSU, by 20 in October). The Bulldogs have been rolling

since and had Alabama on the ropes before the Tide erased a 14-point deficit. The Bulldogs proved they could hang against the best, but it was not enough. Oklahoma has had defensive issues all season, but its offense has been virtually unstoppable. □

Simone Manuel wins 100 free at Winter Nationals

By MARC PRUITT

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Two-time Olympic champion Simone Manuel completed a sweep of the sprint freestyles at the USA Swimming Winter Nationals, winning the 100-meter race Saturday.

Manuel touched in 53.38 seconds to beat Margo Geer by a second. Katie Ledecky, the 800, 400 and 200 free winner this week, finished fifth in in 54.76.

Manuel, who holds the American record in the event at 52.27, tied for the gold medal in the 100 free at the Rio Olympics. She won the 50 free Thursday night and finished second Friday in the 200

free against Ledecky, her teammate and training partner.

Manuel met the time qualifying standards in all three of her events this week for the 2020 Olympic Trials, which will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, in June 2020.

"I'm pleased with my week and am happy with the performance in all three of my races," Manuel said. "I have gotten some good feedback so that I can hopefully get faster for the rest of the year. I think a lot of the positives were that I was able to execute well on some of the technical aspects of my stroke that I've been focusing on in practice and be able to

do that in a race. There are good things that will come from this meet. It was nice to come off the long gap from racing."

For Ledecky, the Winter Nationals served as a jumping off point as she prepares for next year's World Championships in Gwanju, South Korea, in July. Ledecky, who won five gold medals and one silver in her Olympic debut in Rio, qualified for Olympic Trials in all four events she swam this week.

"I'm happy with all of my swims," Ledecky said. "There were a lot of good things that I learned, and I feel like I'm in a good place in my training. It's good to have a meet like this at the

end of the year, knowing that as we turn the calendar to 2019, things will get serious pretty quickly. I kind of feel like I get a head start for 2019 by competing in a meet like this."

Eight-time Olympic medal winner Nathan Adrian qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 50 free and 100 free based on his times.

Adrian won the 50 free on Thursday night and followed that up with a runner-up finish in the 100 free Saturday, touching two-hundredths of a second behind Michael Chadwick (48.57). "I'm in a good place and I'm really excited about that," Adrian said. "I've been training for about eight and a half

weeks now, so I've never come to a Winter Nationals with such a small window of training in place. I didn't love getting second (in the 100), but I'm coming away with a 48.59, which I think is as good as any of my times in season last year. We'll go off that and not try to get any slower than that as we move into 2019."

A total of 106 swimmers qualified for Olympic Trials. Hali Flickinger, a member of the 2016 Olympic team, qualified for the Olympic Trials in five events (200 free, 400 free, 400 IM, 200 back, 200 fly), and 14-year old Claire Curzan was the youngest qualifier in three events (the 50 free, 100 fly, and 100 back). □

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Marriott security breach exposed data of up to 500M guests

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Hackers stole information on as many as 500 million guests of the Marriott hotel empire over four years, obtaining credit card and passport numbers and other personal data, the company said Friday as it acknowledged one of the largest security breaches in history.

The full scope of the failure was not immediately clear. Marriott was trying to determine if the records included duplicates, such as a single person staying multiple times.

The affected hotel brands were operated by Starwood before it was acquired by Marriott in 2016. They include W Hotels, St. Regis, Sheraton, Westin, Element, Aloft, The Luxury Collection, Le Méridien and Four Points. Starwood-branded timeshare properties were also affected. None of the Marriott-branded chains were threatened.

The crisis quickly emerged as one of the biggest data breaches on record.

"On a scale of 1 to 10 and up, this is one of those No. 10 size breaches. There have only been a few of them of this scale and scope in the last decade," said Chris Wysopal, chief technology officer of Veracode, a security company. By comparison, last year's Equifax hack affected more than 145 million people. A Target breach in 2013 affected more than 41 million payment card accounts and exposed contact information for more than 60 million customers.

Security analysts were especially alarmed to learn that the breach began in 2014. While such failures often span months, four years is extreme, said Yonatan Striem-Amit, chief technol-



In this Tuesday, April 30, 2013, file photo, a man works on a new Marriott sign in front of the former Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Ark.

ogy officer of Cybereason. It was unclear what hackers could do with the credit card information. Though it was stored in encrypted form, it was possible that hackers also obtained the two components needed to descramble the numbers, the company said.

For as many as two-thirds of those affected, the exposed data could include mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and passport numbers. Also included might be dates of birth, gender, reservation dates, arrival and departure times and Starwood Preferred Guest account information.

"We fell short of what our guests deserve and what we expect of ourselves," CEO Arne Sorenson said in a statement. "We are doing everything we can to support our guests and using lessons learned to be better moving forward."

The breach of personal information could put Mar-

riott in violation of new European privacy laws, as guests included European travelers.

Marriott set up a website and call center for customers who believe they are at risk.

The hackers' access to the reservation system could be troubling if they turn out to be, say, nation-state spies rather than con artists simply seeking financial gain, said Jesse Varsalone, associate professor of cybersecurity at the University of Maryland University College.

Reservation information could mean knowing when and where government officials are traveling, to military bases, conferences or other destinations abroad, he said.

"There are just so many things you can extrapolate from people staying at hotels," Varsalone said.

The richness of the data makes the hack unique, Wysopal said.

"Once you know someone's arrival, departure, room preferences," that could be used to incriminate a person or for a reputation attack that "goes beyond your traditional identity theft or credit-card theft," he said.

It isn't common for passport numbers to be part of a hack, but it is not unheard of. Hong Kong-based airline Cathay Pacific Airways said in October that 9.4 million passengers' information had been breached, including passport numbers. Passport numbers are often requested by hotels outside the U.S. because U.S. driver's licenses are not accepted there as identification. The numbers could be added to full sets of data about a person that bad actors sell on the black market, leading to identity theft.

And while the credit card industry can cancel accounts and issue new cards within days, it is a much

more difficult process, often steeped in government bureaucracy, to get a new passport.

But one redeeming factor about passports is that they are often required to be seen in person, said Ryan Wilk of NuData Security. "It's a highly secure document with a lot of security features," he said.

Email notifications for those who may have been affected began rolling out Friday.

When the merger was first announced in 2015, Starwood had 21 million people in its loyalty program. The company manages more than 6,700 properties across the globe, most in North America.

While the first impulse for those potentially affected by the breach could be to check credit cards, security experts say other information in the database could be more damaging.

The names, addresses, passport numbers and other personal information "is of greater concern than the payment info, which was encrypted," analyst Ted Rossman of CreditCards.com said, citing the risk that thieves could open fraudulent accounts.

An internal security tool signaled a potential breach in early September, but the company was unable to decrypt the information that would define what data had possibly been exposed until last week.

Marriott, based in Bethesda, Maryland, said in a regulatory filing that it was premature to estimate what financial impact the breach will have on the company. It noted that it does have cyber insurance, and is working with its insurance carriers to assess coverage. Elected officials were quick to call for action. □

Salaried workers beware: GM cuts are a warning for all

By TOM KRISHER

JOSH BOAK

AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — For generations, the career path for smart kids around Detroit was to get an engineering or business degree and get hired by an automaker or parts supplier. If you worked hard and didn't screw up, you had a job for life with enough money to raise a family, take vacations and buy a weekend cottage in northern Michigan. Now that once-reliable route to prosperity appears to be vanishing, as evidenced by General Motors' announcement this week that it plans to shed 8,000 white-collar jobs on top of 6,000 blue-collar ones.

It was a humbling warning that in this era of rapid and disruptive technological change, those with a college education are not necessarily insulated from the kind of layoffs factory workers know all too well.

The cutbacks reflect a transformation underway in both the auto industry and the broader U.S. economy, with nearly every type of business becoming oriented toward computers, software and automation.

"This is a big mega-trend pervading the whole economy," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who has researched changes being caused by the digital age. Cities that suffered manufacturing job losses decades ago are now grappling with the problem of fewer opportunities for white-collar employees such as managers, lawyers, bankers and accountants. Since 2008, The Associated Press found, roughly a third of major U.S. metro areas have lost a greater percentage of white-collar jobs than blue-collar jobs. It's a phenomenon seen in such places as Wichita, Kansas, with its downsized aircraft industry, and towns in Wisconsin that have lost auto, industrial machinery or furniture-making jobs.

In GM's case, the jobs that will be shed through buyouts and layoffs are held largely by people who



This May 5, 2011 file photo shows the General Motors headquarters in Detroit.

Associated Press

are experts in the internal combustion engine — mechanical engineers and others who spent their careers working on fuel injectors, transmissions, exhaust systems and other components that won't be needed for the electric cars that eventually will drive themselves. GM, the nation's largest automaker, says those vehicles are its future. "We're talking about high-skilled people who have made a substantial investment in their education," said Marina Whitman, a retired professor of business and public policy at the University of Michigan and a former GM chief economist. "The transitions can be extremely painful for a subset of people."

GM is still hiring white-collar employees, but the new jobs are for those who can write software code, design laser sensors or develop batteries and other devices for future vehicles. Those who are being thrown out of work might have to learn new skills if they hope to find new jobs, underscoring what Whitman said is another truism about the new economy: "You've got to regard education as a lifetime process. You probably are going to have multiple jobs in your lifetime. You've got to stay flexible."

Whitman said mechanical engineers are smart people who could transfer their skills to software or batteries, but they'll need training, and that takes time and money. "In the past with these kinds of changes, eventually new jobs have been created," she said. "Will it happen this time, or is the change taking place too fast for everybody to be absorbed? I don't know."

Although the job cuts took him and co-workers by surprise, Tracy Lucas, 54, a GM engine quality manager, decided to take the buyout and change careers. His children are grown and on their own, and with 33 years in at GM, he will get a pension and health care. The buyout will also give him about eight months of pay, enough time to take his newly earned master's degree in business administration and look for different work. He said he will be glad to leave some tedious management tasks behind but will miss seeing through a lot of work to reduce engine warranty claims.

He is leaving in part, he said, to save a job for younger co-workers. GM got 2,250 white-collar workers to take buyouts, and will have to complete the cutbacks by way of layoffs.

"I really hate that we have to go into the whole pro-

cess of tapping people on the shoulder," Lucas said. "I don't think the second wave is going to be pretty at all. It's going to be brutal."

The white-collar cutbacks — combined with more to come at Ford, which is likewise making the transition from personal ownership of gasoline-burning vehicles to ride-sharing and self-driving electric cars — could hamper the renaissance underway in Detroit, which is emerging from bankruptcy and a long population decline.

Many of these automotive industry engineers and managers are pulling down six-figure salaries, and some may have to move out of the Detroit metro area for new jobs.

The Brookings Institution's Muro wonders whether auto companies will bring more electrical engineers and software developers to Michigan or put them in places where such jobs are already clustered, such as San Francisco, Seattle, Boston or near major research universities.

"This is how regions change and labor markets change," Muro said.

GM says it will hire in the Detroit area, but its autonomous-vehicle workforce has grown to over 1,000 at offices in San Francisco

and Seattle.

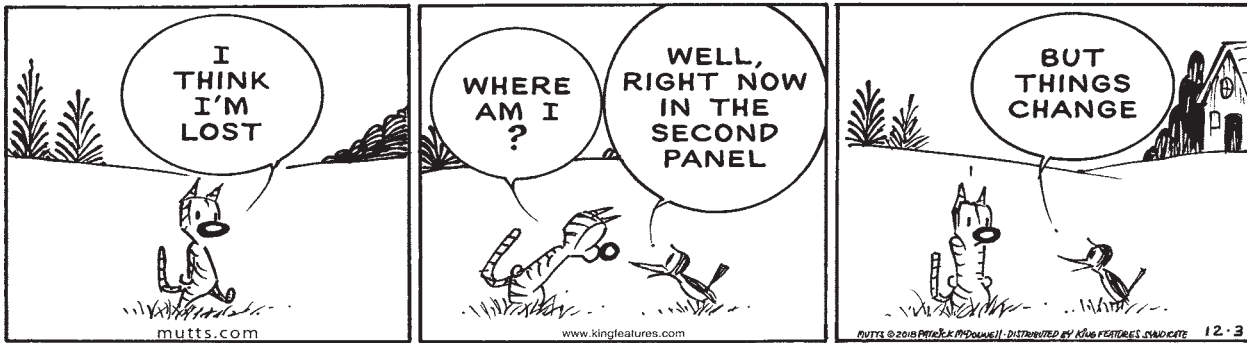
Nearly all of the 8,000 white-collar cutbacks will be in metropolitan Detroit, largely at GM's technical center in Warren, a suburb north of the city. That's equal to about 4 percent of the managerial and engineering jobs in the Detroit-Warren area, according to the Labor Department. Managerial salaries in the area average \$124,000.

Ford, which is just beginning its salaried workforce downsizing, hasn't said how many will go. But even if it's half of GM's total, the white-collar losses around Detroit will approach those during the financial crisis of a decade ago, when the metro areas shed 14,450 managerial and engineering jobs. That was 8.9 percent of those types of jobs in the metro areas.

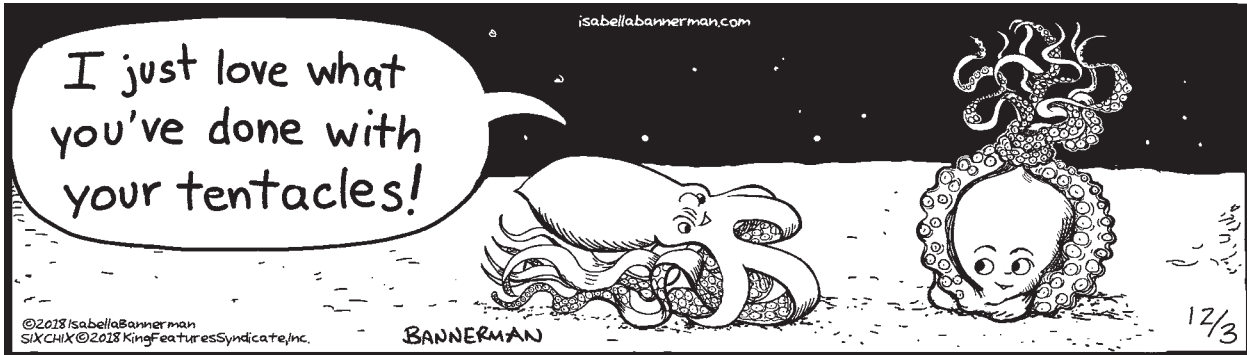
Layoffs are also likely to spread to auto parts suppliers, which won't need to design and build as many parts for gas-powered cars. While GM says cutting these positions is necessary to save money to invest in the new technology, there are possible long-term costs to shedding so many experienced workers in one swoop, especially if the switch to electric vehicles stalls, said Joel Cutchner-Gershenfeld, a management professor at Brandeis University. If that were to happen, the cutbacks could leave GM without the vital expertise it needs. Even the most skilled white-collar workers need to spend less and be prepared to change jobs or locations to stay employed, said Rick Knoth, a retired GM industrial engineer who survived a 2008 downsizing by taking an early retirement package after 37 years with the company. Knoth said he is confident most engineers are smart enough to turn their skills into a new career. But all white-collar employees need to be ready for change because it comes fast, he said.

"The world isn't like it used to be, that's for sure," he said. "You can't count on anything." □

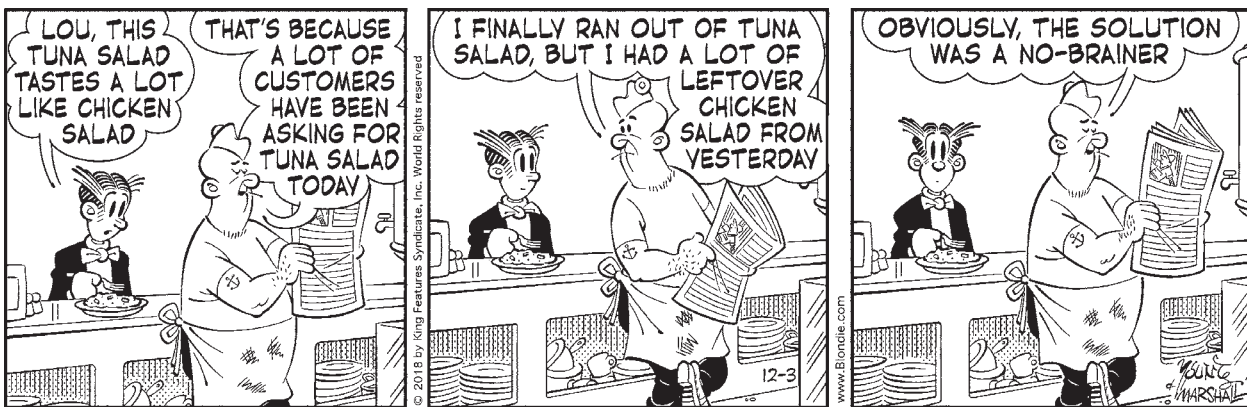
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				7				
	8		6		2		3	
9	7	6				2	5	4
8	1		3		5		2	7
				1				
7	3		9		6		4	5
6	5	1				9	8	3
	4		1		3		7	
				6				

Difficulty Level ★

12/03

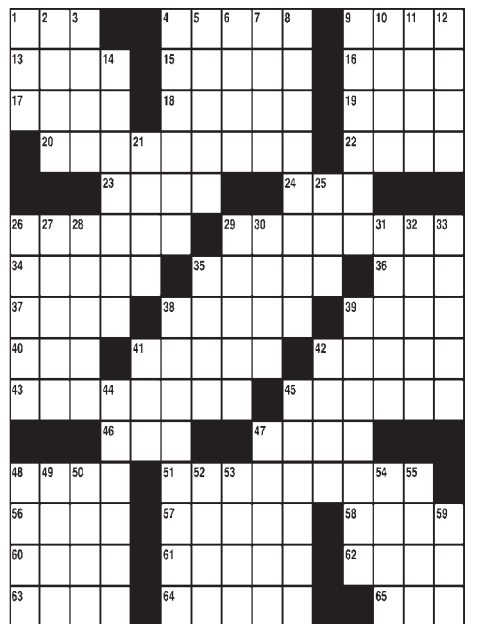
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	5	3	9	4	6	7	8
7	3	9	8	6	1	4	5	2
6	4	8	2	7	5	9	1	3
3	8	4	9	5	6	7	2	1
2	1	6	7	8	3	5	4	9
5	9	7	4	1	2	3	8	6
4	7	3	1	2	9	8	6	5
9	5	1	6	4	8	2	3	7
8	6	2	5	3	7	1	9	4

ACROSS

- Nickname for Margaret
- U.S. state capital
- Prefix for enemy or bishop
- Wood splitters
- Refrain syllables
- Place to store fodder
- Desire
- Downey & others
- Sign of an old wound
- Mirth
- Cedar Rapids' state
- Verdi opera
- Suffix for baron or host
- Drink
- as an arrow
- Lunch hours
- Gave a pink slip to
- Regulation
- Sounds from a pigeon coop
- Summoned with a beeper
- Valley
- Gore and his dad
- Glow
- Serving implement
- Carryalls
- Most resentful
- Cry of discovery
- Attack and injure
- Nocturnal birds
- Leaving high and dry
- "Phooey!"
- Get up
- Element whose symbol is Ne
- Shabby nightclub
- Furniture blemishes
- Fence door
- Asterisk
- Browned bread
- Uncooked



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/3/18

DOWN

- Boxer's foot
- Quiz
- Cowboy Autry
- Take long steps
- Fragrance
- Kind of duck
- Vigorous spirit
- Learned well
- St. Francis' home
- Puerto
- Talon
- Dance at a bar mitzvah
- Overexerts, as a muscle
- BBQ favorites
- Melancholy
- Peruvian Indians
- Money, slangily
- Helpful lift
- Taurus, Leo, Virgo, etc.
- Locust or larch
- Air-freshening spray
- Corridors

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	N	A	S	T	R	A	W	A	R	C	H
O	N	E	S	A	R	O	M	A	L	U	A	U
N	C	I	S	R	E	T	I	R	E	M	E	N
K	E	G	D	O	E	S	D	O	S	E	S	
			H	O	U	N	D	L	I	S		
E	B	B	I	N	G	V	I	C	T	O	R	
A	L	O	N	E	S	H	E	E	T		R	U
C	O	R	K	S	P	E	E	D		D	I	N
H	A	L	C	H	A	M	P	D	I	G	I	T
T	Y	C	O	O	N		M	A	R	I	N	A
			H	U	E		W	I	D	E	N	
W	A	G	O	N		S	A	N	S		A	R
A	N	E	S	T	H	E	T	I	C		F	L
C	O	N	E		A	L	I	V	E		E	L
O	X	E	N		T	I	R	E	D		E	E

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12/3/18

- Twitter post
- Get an "F"
- Game bird
- Term of affection
- "Be quiet!"
- Deafening
- Furniture wheel
- Most rational
- Disguises
- Probability
- Judge's order
- Molten rock
- Threesome
- Costa
- Easy to reach
- James Taylor's "You've __ Friend"
- Just purchased

Africa wildlife films try to inspire amid poaching scourge

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A documentary film about rhino poaching won awards at film festivals in Europe and the United States this year. But since bringing "STROOP: journey into the rhino horn war" home to South Africa, its makers have struggled for the same buzz in a country whose rhino population, the biggest in the world, has been under siege for a decade.

"Overseas, we had this amazing success," said Bonné de Bod, narrator of the film, whose title refers to the Afrikaans word for poach. "And we come back home and we have cinema distributors and even the media telling us that, 'Look, the public is tired of hearing about rhino poaching' or 'Our editor is tired of talking about rhinos.'"

"STROOP" has a deal for international distribution with Journeyman Pictures and several screenings are occurring in major South African cities, but no distributor is willing to risk a financial loss by putting it in cinemas. Documentaries about the slaughter of African wildlife can't compete with popular entertainment — de Bod mentioned "The Grinch," a Christmas film — and often subject audiences to disturbing images such as a rhino whose face has been mutilated by poachers.

Reaching the right audience is also hard. China and some other Asian countries are key consumers of illegal wildlife products, but access is not easy for documentaries that directly or implicitly criticize Asian governments and might include secretly filmed video of animal parts on sale in countries such as Laos and Vietnam.

"It is very much about not only just raising awareness, but hopefully bringing about much-needed change," said Kate Brooks, the American director and producer of "The Last Animals," a documentary about the killing of African elephants for their ivory, the

looming extinction of the northern white rhino, and rangers and others trying to save the iconic animals.

The film was screened last year in Hong Kong as part of a campaign by the WildAid conservation group, and Brooks testified to lawmakers there shortly before the territory decided to phase out its legal ivory trade by 2021, similar to a ban already in effect in mainland China. "The Last Animals" was also shown in Taiwan, and to some EU and British lawmakers. This year, Britain announced what it said was one of the world's toughest bans on ivory sales.

The film's website allows people in some countries, mainly in the West, who want full bans on the ivory trade to submit online appeals to their lawmakers, and the website's designers plan similar campaigns for Asia and Africa. Brooks warned that "these animals don't have a chance" as long as there are legal loopholes.

"The Last Animals" will be broadcast on Wednesday in South Africa on AMC's Sundance Channel and will be released by Netflix in Canada, Australia, Ireland and Britain on Dec. 24 as a global rollout continues, according to Brooks.

International bans on trade in ivory and rhino horn have been in effect for decades,



In this undated photo supplied Sunday Dec. 2, 2018, by STROOP a documentary film about rhino poaching, a rhino that was killed by poachers in the metropolitan area around the city of Pretoria, home to the main offices of the South African presidency in May 2016, is shown in a photograph taken by the South African director of STROOP, Susan Scott.

Associated Press

but the killing of elephants and rhinos has surged. Recent court rulings in South Africa opened the way to a domestic trade in rhino horn, despite the concern of many conservationists. Some Asian consumers believe it can cure illnesses, although there is no evidence that the horn, made of the same substance as human fingernails, has any medicinal value.

Raul Gallego Abellan, a Spanish filmmaker, traveled to Mozambique's Niassa National Reserve this year for the Global Wildlife Program, an initiative led by the World Bank. He patrolled with rangers trying to contain some of the worst elephant poaching on the continent. The four-part "Niassa Elephant Defenders" video seeks to "bring

light into dark places" by showing the rangers' commitment, Gallego Abellan said. He said he hoped viewers would not just share the video on social media but instead "do something by themselves," whether donating to an environmental cause or deciding not to buy a product linked to wildlife exploitation. □



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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896
Venezolana	583 7674

CRUISES



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AIDAperla
December 4
Celebrity Silhouette

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Tumor-free flounder: Study underscores Boston Harbor rebirth



In this May 18, 2018 file photo, The USS Constitution glides through Boston Harbor past the city skyline in Boston.

Associated Press

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A canary in a coal mine? How about a flounder in a harbor? In a study published last week in the journal *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts declared that flounder in Boston's once notoriously polluted harbor are now tumor-free.

It's turnaround from the late 1980s, when more than three-quarters of the species in Boston Harbor were found to have signs of liver disease, including cancerous tumors. But Michael Moore, the Woods Hole biologist who authored the study published in the academic journal *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, said his team hasn't found a tumor on a

flounder since 2004. "The fish aren't getting liver tumors anymore," he said. Moore has been monitoring harbor flounder since 1986, when the poor health of the once-bountiful, bottom-feeding fish became emblematic of the harbor's broader environmental challenges. The health of the flounder that generations of Bostonians had fished helped

spur a series of lawsuits. A landmark federal court decision in 1985 compelled Massachusetts to properly treat sewage dumped into the harbor, resulting in billions of dollars in public works projects. Chief among them was the completion of a new sewage treatment plant on the harbor in the 1990s and the opening of a massive underground tunnel directing

discharge from the sewage plant nearly 10 miles out of the harbor into Massachusetts Bay in 2000. The results have been dramatic, with porpoises, seals, humpback whales and other marine animals that had been rarely if ever seen in the harbor now regularly popping up, says Tony LaCasse, the spokesman for the New England Aquarium that overlooks Boston Harbor. "The people of Massachusetts spent billions of dollars to reclaim their harbor, and it worked," he said. The turnaround of the harbor — once considered the country's dirtiest — can also be seen in the improved water quality in the rivers that feed into it and the high marks its beaches have received for cleanliness in recent years, according to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the drinking water and sewage agency created in the wake of the 1985 decision. "The empirical data is irrefutable," Frederick Laskey, the authority's executive director, said. "The clean-up of Boston Harbor is the greatest environmental achievement of this generation." □



A great black hawk, a native of Central and South America, prowls the grounds of Deering Oaks Park, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, in Portland, Maine.

Associated Press

Hawk native to South America wows crowd in Maine park

By PATRICK WHITTLE

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A hawk that is native to Central and South America drew a lot of attention from Maine's birding community Friday after appearing in a park, where it brawled with a fellow raptor and dined on a squirrel. The great black hawk has been a source of fascination in Maine since it was first spotted by Biddeford bird fans in August, and it popped up in Portland's Deering Oaks Park on Thursday. The bird drew hundreds of birders with binoculars and cameras to the park, the largest public space in the city, on Friday morning. Audubon naturalist Doug

Hitchcox was in the crowd and said the young bird appeared to be in good health and in the process of molting. Maine residents sometimes see rare birds, he said, but "this is one for the record books," and it made for a moment they wouldn't forget. "We've been watching it tear apart a squirrel for the last half hour or so," said Hitchcox in the early afternoon, as he monitored the bird and advised admirers not to get too close to it. Great black hawks typically live from Mexico to Argentina, and exactly how this individual made it to Maine is a bit of a mystery, Hitchcox said. It hadn't been seen since Oct. 30,

and is believed to be the same bird that was spotted in South Padre Island, Texas, months ago. Audubon has called it potentially the first record of the species in the U.S. The bird got into a scrap with a red-tailed hawk, a common Maine species, and delighted the crowd by flying overhead near a school. One member of the assembled birding throng was Derek Lovitch, author of "How to Be a Better Birder" and a Freeport-based birding tour guide. All the interest in the bird, he said, made for a great moment for Maine's nature lovers. "Look at all these school groups," Lovitch said. □

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Missy Elliott on Songwriters Hall nod: 'I feel so blessed'

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For Missy Elliott, being a good friend and listener turned into songwriting gold.

Conversations with her girlfriends fueled a great deal of her songwriting, Elliott said, resulting in her turning those stories into smash hits, from Monica's "So Gone," a No. 1 R&B success, to Fantasia's "Free Yourself."

"I would be around friends and a lot of times (and) everybody's just laughing and playing, but I would listen to the stories and use those in songs because they were like everyday topics for the girls that I hung around (with)," Elliott said in an interview with The Associated Press this week. "They didn't know that, but I was just sitting there like, 'Wow, that's a song.'"

"You keep going through the same thing with the same dude, keep going back, over and over again and we keep sitting here listening, saying 'we ain't gon' be there next time when you go back,' and we right here again sitting through the same story," she added, laughing.

Elliott could probably write a song about anything. Her wild, eccentric style and creative lyricism make her one of music's best storytellers and recently earned her a nomination for the prestigious 2019 Songwriters Hall of Fame class. She could be the first female rapper to enter the organization and the third overall rapper after recent inductees Jay-Z and Jermaine Dupri.

"I feel so humbled and truly blessed to be even nominated — that's huge," she said.

The rapper-songwriter-producer-singer has a number of Top 10 pop hits, ranging from her own songs with "Work It," "Get Ur Freak On" and "Lose Control" to tracks she has written for others, including Ciara's "1,2 Step," 702's "Where My Girls At," Tweet's "Oops (Oh My)," Total's "Trippin'" and Nicole Wray's "Make It Hot." She even produced Keyshia Cole's anthem, "Let It Go," which reached No. 7 on



In this July 7, 2018 file photo, Missy Elliott performs at the 2018 Essence Festival in New Orleans.

Associated Press

the Billboard Hot 100 chart, and produced the 2001 re-make of "Lady Marmalade" with Christina Aguilera, Pink, Mya and Lil Kim, which hit the No. 1 spot for five weeks and won a Grammy Award.

"It's been amazing to give them a voice," Elliott said of writing lyrics for other female performers.

"We build a friendship beyond music, but I'm always humbled that they trust me. And I always ask them, before doing a song, what are you going through?" added Elliott, who has also written for Whitney Houston, Beyonce, Aaliyah, Janet Jackson, Mary J. Blige and Jazmine Sullivan. "Of course, I got tons of records, but it's good when you can custom-make something specifically for that artist."

Elliott said it can be harder when it comes to writing for herself. The girl who used to sing loudly outdoors with a hairbrush as her microphone and wrote lyrics on her bedroom walls said "the expectations that I have on my own self are extremely high, so it's always tough for me."

"It's like, 'You could do better,'" she explained. "And when I'm writing for other people, I feel more relaxed because I feel like a lot of times my style was always so different that writing for

other people at times kind of made them step out of the box they were in."

But don't fret, the superstar is still cooking up new music: "I have fresh talent coming in helping because I've done so much (and) sometimes you need fresh energy to come in."

"I had got to a place where it felt more like a job than fun and now it's fun again," she added.

She said she's hoping to collaborate with other artists, naming Andre 3000, Kendrick Lamar, Erykah Badu, H.E.R. and Tierra Whack as some of the folks she'd like to spend time with in the studio. She's also interested in working with people who aren't famous and successful.

"I like to catch people

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Cuaron crafts a neorealist masterpiece in 'Roma'

By LINDSEY BAHR

The phrase "world creation" gets thrown around casually and frequently in cinema, but few modern directors are better at fashioning a totally transportive experience than director Alfonso Cuarón. He has taken us to space, to the edge of desire, to a bleak future and back to the wistful anxiety of childhood. And each of his very distinct fantasies have a way of sticking around in your consciousness, lingering so effectively that they often find a privileged resting place alongside your own memories. Such is sure to be the case with "Roma," a hypnotic, neorealist masterpiece about a middle class family living in Mexico City in the 1970s that's inspired by the filmmaker's own youth. But this is a different kind of autobiography. Instead of looking inward and telling a story from his own perspective, Cuarón has stepped outside of himself and chosen pay tribute to the inner lives of two people who children only ever see in the context of themselves



This image released by Netflix shows a scene from the film "Roma," by filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón. Associated Press

— his mother and nanny. And it is the nanny and housekeeper, Cleo, who gets the star treatment in "Roma." Portrayed with astounding assuredness and depth by the novice actor Yalitza Aparicio, Cleo may appear quiet and reserved but she is acutely observant to everything that's happening around her, no matter how small. She treats seriously the loneliness of the youngest son of

the four doctor's children she cares for. She seems to know that when her boss, Sofia (an exquisite Marina de Tavira) snaps at her to clean up the dog poop in the garage, that it isn't about her. She is used to absorbing the pain of others, which makes her own trials through the course of the film even more devastating to experience. As with many families with a live-in housekeeper, Cleo

may be getting paid for her service, but she is as much of mother figure to the children of the household as their birth mother, who has, at least lately, been distracted trying to keep the attention of her scoundrel husband. The men of "Roma" are little more than jerks, disappointments and nuisances who leave the women, and the audience, enraged. This may all seem very vague, but "Roma" is

a journey that doesn't really lend itself to simple plot points. It's simply a slice of this family's life, at the moment when they find themselves having to adjust to life without a father, and realizing that perhaps Sofia and Cleo are quite enough and always have been, as they go from the city, to the country for the holidays and back to the reality of home, where political turmoil has reached a violent boiling point. Cuarón is content to take his time with "Roma," allowing the camera to linger on his subjects and the frustrating banalities of ordinary, everyday life that sneak up on you with poetic significance as the film goes on, like a garage, the ever present dog poop that Cleo is always picking up, and a car that's too big to fit. It's the kind of patience that makes so many moments indelible and affecting — from something as small as Cleo sitting in a movie theater to a rowdy holiday party brought to a halt by a fire. It is filmmaking on the highest level. □

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Daniel Romano connects with cosmos on 'Finally Free'



This cover image released by New West Records shows "Finally Free," a release by Daniel Romano.

Associated Press

By PABLO GORONDI
Daniel Romano, "Finally Free" (New West Records)
Eclectic, prolific Canadian Daniel Romano's "Finally Free" connects directly to the cosmos, his acoustic-based compositions relying on gorgeous melodies and vocal harmonies to construct a set worthy of any Woodstock-era festival. Taped on a four-track Tas-

cam cassette recorder with a single microphone that never changed position while capturing the sounds of instruments around the room, the album echoes some of the primal density and adventurousness of Pete Townshend's solo demos combined in the creative process with what sound like fragments of stream of consciousness. "Empty Husk" launches the album with an autoharp-like strum and lyrics with words like "enchantment," "preservation" and "molecules" building up to intense strumming and drumming and chants of "no more darkness/no more." It returns to calm repetitions of "I am not afraid," a comforting reassurance of resilience. "All the Reaching Trims" has Joni Mitchell/Nick Drake guitar parts, one of

the aforementioned heavenly melodies and a heavy dose of metaphysical musings, just like "The Long Mirror of Time," which adds an organ to the soundscape. "Have You Arrival" is a saga which may have been twice as effective a minute or two shorter than its six-plus. It sounds like a Big Star-Donovan collaboration, nearly compensating for the excess. The vocals on "Gleaming Sects of Aniram" reach a Robyn Hitchcock-like basso profundo, while the lyrics mention daffodils and "the naked lovers shedding spoiled skin." Naturally. Lyrics and song titles from one composition are quoted on others, an oft-repeated literary device, and there's a Walt Whitmanesque spirit of transcendentalism throughout. □

Ludwig Goransson is having the best year ever. Period.

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He's had his hand in two of the year's biggest pop culture moments — with the film "Black Panther" and the song "This Is America" — but unlike Michael B. Jordan or Childish Gambino, Ludwig Goransson can easily walk down the street like a regular dude.

At just 34, the talented and skilled composer from Sweden is having the best year of his career. He completed the film score for the uber-successful "Black Panther," even traveling to Senegal for three weeks to learn about African music and work with local musicians.

He earned three nominations at this year's Grammy Awards for his production and songwriting work on Gambino's 2016 album, "Awaken, My Love!," and the duo reached even greater heights with the epic "This Is America" — and its heralded video — which went viral and became an instant No. 1 smash in May. Goransson also composed music for "Venom," released last month, and returned to the "Creed" franchise to do its film score ("Creed II" hits U.S. theaters on Wednesday).

"It definitely feels like I'm living a dream. But I try not to pinch myself because I don't want to wake up," the long-haired, easygoing musician said, sitting comfortably on a couch at a hotel in New York City.

Oh, and he's even worked with Beyonce and Jay-Z.

"I worked on a little trailer for the tour," said Goransson, who is signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation. "It was just a short little thing but still it was Beyonce and Jay-Z. It doesn't get bigger than that."

Goransson is clearly booked, and busy. He worked for months on "Creed II," starring Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson, saying the franchise "is so close to my heart" because the 2015 film was one of the first studio features he composed music for.



In this Nov. 15, 2018 photo, Swedish composer Ludwig Goransson poses for a portrait in New York. Associated Press

Goransson moved to America to study at the University of Southern California over a decade ago, where he met Ryan Coogler and composed music for the director's student film. When Coogler directed the critically-acclaimed independent, "Fruitvale Station," he called on Goransson. "Creed" and "Black Panther" soon followed.

"What's really great is that it was a very natural progress for us. Every time we worked together it was always like stepping stones together," Goransson said of his relationship with Coogler, who didn't direct "Creed II" but is credited as an executive producer. "We're developing and we're getting to know each other more for every project."

Goransson, who now lives in Los Angeles, grew up in Linköping, a small town two hours south of Stockholm. He started playing guitar at 7 — his father is a guitar teacher — and when he was 9 he fell in love with Metallica.

"That's when I was like, 'OK, I want to spend 10 hours a day practicing guitar for the rest of my life,'" he said. "I wanted to be the best guitar player in the world. And then my dad got me a

portable recorder, so I started writing my own music." He got a job assisting composer Theodore Shapiro — first working on the 2008 comedy "Tropic Thunder" — after graduating from USC. "From the very first submission of materials that he sent to me in applying for the job, it was immediately clear that he had his own voice as a composer, and that's really rare," said Shapiro, who has also scored "The Wolf of Wall Street," "The Devil Wears Prada," "Blades of Glory" and more. "You can find a lot of people who are very proficient at doing other styles, but it's very rare that you find somebody who really arrives with a very unique sensibility and that it's always been clear that he had that. He just thinks a little bit differently than everyone else."

Shapiro's busy schedule wouldn't allow him to compose music for a then-new TV series called "Community," which debuted in 2009. So he recommended Goransson.

"They gave me a chance," Goransson said. It was where he met Gambino, then mainly known as Donald Glover. Working on a song together for

the show led to Goransson and Glover trading ideas about for Gambino's 2010 mixtape, "Culdesac." They have worked tightly ever since.

"It's a similar journey that I did with Ryan (Coogler). We started on a mixtape, then we started on a smaller project. What's really fun, working with Donald, is he's such a Renaissance man. You never know where he's going to go, what he's going to do. Every project is musically very different from each other, but I still feel like they're emotionally very connected," said Goransson, who has also produced for Chance the Rapper and HAIM.

"I think we just keep pushing each other and I keep learning, keep challenging myself. It keeps getting better and better."

Alongside Gambino, Goransson earned Grammy nominations for album of the year for "Awaken" and record of the year and best R&B song for the hit, "Redbone." The song won Gambino his first Grammy — best traditional R&B performance — a category only awarded to performers, not producers or songwriters.

But this awards season,

Goransson is looking like a white-hot contender, from the Grammys to the Oscars, thanks to "Black Panther" and "This Is America," which he and Gambino started working on three years ago. The work for "Black Panther" was also intense and long — and rewarding. Goransson said composing music for the top-grossing Marvel Studios project came with "extreme pressure."

"Being white and from Sweden, scoring a movie like this, there was a big pressure. Knowing Ryan, having a collaborator that you worked with over 10 years ... his trust and his confidence in me really turned the pressure into more of an inspiration," he said. "After I read the script, I knew the only way that I could score this movie was to go to Africa, do my research, learn and train with some of the greatest musicians I've ever met. It was incredible journey for me."

Shapiro said Goransson going the extra mile for "Black Panther" is "what separates that score from everything else and makes it special."

"He didn't have to do that. He could have stayed at home and done the research. But he ... really dove in to an extraordinary degree and that commitment clearly came out in the music that he wrote," he said.

Going the extra mile is common for Goransson, even on a lighter level. On this day, for a photo shoot, the composer with a fun fashion sense (he wore a forest green crushed velvet suit to the 2018 Grammys) shows up with three coat options, including a furry, brown number. He is even game to jump in the freezing snow to take photos.

Shapiro said apart from being talented, Goransson is simply a fun and kind dude. "He has this easy confidence about him that is really magnetic, but also a real kindness to him, and that's an incredible combination. And obviously it draws people to him and makes them want to collaborate with him," Shapiro said. □

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